



# PISTOL LAKE, LOWER

T3 ND, Hancock Co.  
U.S.G.S. Spring Lake, Me (7½')

## Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Blacknose dace
Brook trout	Creek chub
Rainbow smelt	Fallfish
White perch	White sucker
Yellow perch	Hornpout (bullhead)
Minnows	Banded killifish
Golden shiner	Redbreast sunfish
Common shiner	Pumpkinseed sunfish

## Physical Characteristics

Area - 979 acres

Maximum depth - 36 feet

Principal fishery: White perch

Temperatures:

Surface - 72°F

35 feet - 59°F

Lower Pistol Lake is located in the Passadumkeag River drainage in northern Hancock County. The lake is surrounded by a predominately spruce and fir forest with some hardwoods and pine. There are very few camps on the lake at the present time. The remains of an old logging dam that held the water level from 4 to 5 feet higher than the present level are still visible on the outlet. The higher water level eroded the soil from what is the present shoreline, which gives the shoreline a very rocky appearance. There are several sand beaches on the lake and a generally sandy bottom beyond the rocky shoreline. The coves have a mostly sandy bottom with little emergent vegetation.

Water quality is marginal for salmon and trout. The lake stratifies during the summer months but in most years there is insufficient oxygen for coldwater fish in the deep water. Neither salmon nor trout are currently stocked, however both are present in small numbers from natural reproduction in Pistol Stream, the largest tributary. Past stockings of salmon and trout failed to produce a significant fishery. White perch are the dominant species in the lake although they do not attain a very large average size. Lower Pistol is unusual in that there are no bass or pickerel in the lake. Natural barriers on the outlet have prevented movement of these species from the Passadumkeag River. It is possible that if either splake or brown trout were introduced into this lake they could provide a good fishery because both are better able to compete with the large perch population.

Access is by a gravel road from the Nicaious Road through "Pistol Green". The last hundred yards to the lake are extremely rough and marginal for 2-wheel drive vehicles.

Surveyed - August, 1954

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